लोको इम्पोर्ट किया गया है उसकी भी ट्रांसफर ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी है इस साल एक जी.एम. लोको डी.एल. डब्ल्यू में बानाया जाएगा। यानी कि अगर कोई भी रेगुलर इस्तेमाल के लिए अपनी रिक्वायरमेंट के लिए इम्पोर्ट करता है उसका हमारे इन्डिजिनिस सिस्टम में आर्डर न देने से कोई संबंध नहीं है । स्थिति यह है कि टेक्रेलॉजी ऑफ ट्रांसफर के लिए वह वहीं इम्पोर्ट होता है और वहीं बनाया जाता है । जहां तक आपने क्रेन के बारे में पूछा यदि उसका कोई स्पेसिफिक क्वेश्चन होता तो मैं उसकी पूरी जानकारी लेकर आपको देता, ऑफहैंड तो मेरे पास सुचना उपलब्ध नहीं है ट्रेन के बारे में जो सी॰बी॰आई॰ इंक्वारी चल रही थी वह किस स्टेज में है , उसके बारे में भी ऑफहैंड मेरे पास जानकारी नहीं है । माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा है यदि आप इजाजत देंगे तो उसका क्या स्टेट्स है रेलवे के पास जो सुचना होगी वह प्राप्त करके इन्हें भिजवा देंगे ।

श्रीमती जमान देवी बारुपाल: सभापति जी मेरा रेलवे वर्कशॉप का प्रसंग इससे मिलता-जुलता है । मैं आजरणीय रेलवे मिनिस्टर से यह आग्रह करुंगी कि बीकानेर में रेलवे वर्कशॉप स्टेट के जमाने से बना हुआ है । वहां इंजन , रेल के डिब्बे और बढिया पुर्जे बनते हैं लेकिन आज की स्थिति में वह रूग्पा अवस्था में पड़ा हुआ है । क्या रेलवे वर्कशॉप , जो इंजन और पुर्जे बना ता है उसमें भविष्य में कोई सुधार करने के लिए आप सोचेंगे? वहां हजारों मिस्त्री और मजदुर काम करते हैं । एक समय था जब लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जी रेलवे मिनिस्टर थे तो वहां निरीक्षण करने गए थे और उन्होंने बड़े हीं मधूर शब्दों में उस रेलवे वर्कशॉप की प्रशंसा की थी । मैं आपसे आग्रह करुंगी कि जहां पुर्जे , इंजन रेल के डिब्बे आदी बनते हैं उस रेलवे वर्कशॉप का विस्तार करें, मैं आपकी बहुत आभारी रहुंगी । बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री नीतीश कुमार : इसका तो कोई संबंध नहीं है ।

श्रीमती जमना देवी बारुपाल: यह इससे मिलता जुलता प्रश्न है।

श्री मीतीश कुमारः सभापति जी मैं इतना ही कहना चाहुंगा कि हम इनके आग्रह पर संसद सत्र समाप्त होने के बाद उस वर्कशॉप का निरीक्षण करने जाएंगे क्योंकि इसका तो काम ही रेलवे की जरूरत को पूरा करना है और इसी के हिसाब से वर्कशॉप बनाए जाते हैं।

Pipeline of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company in forest area

*283. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Environment & Forests has given the right of way of 30 meters to Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited for the pipeline in the forest area;

(b) if so, when the permission was given;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the permission given to KIOCL by Karnataka Government for laying a pipeline had expired in 1980 and it was not renewed thereafter; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not initiating any action by Government?

THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Ministry had received two proposals in recent past for diversion of forest land in favour of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) from the Government of Karnataka under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The first proposal which was received in 1999 relates to renewal of mining lease over 4605 hectare of forest land. The State Government also informed that the final notification of Kudremukh National Park was under process. As the area proposed for diversion was forming part of Kudremukh National Park, the State Government was asked to get a detailed study done on the impact of mining on the *flora and fauna* of the Kudremukh National Park. However, keeping in mind that fact that mining was an ongoing activity in the area as the first lease was given in 1969, temporary working permission was granted for continuation of mining in the already broken up area only as an interim measure in July, 1999 for one year which was further extended by one year in July, 2000 and by another 3 months in July, 2001.

The State Government on 14.07.2000 submitted a complementary additional proposal for diversion of 30 ha. of forest land in favour of KIOCL for the purpose of replacement of the worn out slurry pipeline, which had started leaking at certain places. The Ministry considered the proposal in the light of the fact that the pipeline is part of the over all operations of KIOCL. The Ministry did not approve this proposal in view of the fact that the decision for renewal of mining lease of KIOCL was yet to be taken. However, keeping in view that temporary working permission had been granted to them

for mining, KIOCL was allowed to replace the worn out/leaking slurry pipeline on 21.9.2000 in the over all interest of the National Park.

The Ministry of Steel and Mines, Government of India had acquired lands under the provisions of Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962 for the purpose of laying slurry pipeline from Malleshwara (Kudremukh) to New Mangalore Port at Panambur for Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. *vide* notification No. S.O. 610(E) dated 25.10.1978. Therefore the question of the permission under this Act expiring in 1980 does not arise. Since the acquisition of the land has been made prior to enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, even clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is not required for continuation of the existing pipeline.

The study conducted by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on the impact of mining on Kudremukh National Park reveals adverse effect of the mining on surrounding areas. The area forms part of the Western Ghats, which is very sensitive and fragile ecosystem. A large number of representations have been received against continuation of mining fn the area. This is also a subject matter of a Public Interest Litigation being heard in the Supreme Court.

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited is a public sector undertaking set up by the Central Government near Mangalore in the Western Ghats in Karnataka State. Since 1969, mining activities are going on there. The Kudremukh Iron Ore Company is a joint venture Company and funded by the Iran Government to manufacture iron pellets. It is a profit-making company providing employment, both direct and indirect, to more than 3000 people. The company is earning a foreign exchange of more than Rs.600 crores per year. The Mangalore Port depends mainly on the exports by this company. Sir, for any developing country to develop economically or industrially, industrialisation is a must. For industrialisation, exploitation of natural resources is also a must. Naturally, resources will be in forest areas, thick forest covered areas. And for any construction activity,

destruction is necessary. The only question is, after destruction or deforestation, what will be the steps to be taken to prevent, to create afforestation and prevent industrial waste flowing into the rivers or dams? Now my question is this. There is a threat that the Central Government is not going to renew the mining lease of this company. There is an uncertainty prevailing in the minds of the employees and in the Mangalore Port. Therefore, to continue the operations of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company, will the hon. Minister renew the mining lease further? I would also like to know whether the Government will direct the Standing Committee on Science and Technology to make an on-the-spot study and hear the views of the industry as well as the environmental issue.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, as we know, the Western Ghats is one of the mega-biodiversity hot spots. It has got rich *fauna and flora.* At the same time, from many environmentalists, day in and day out, hundreds of e-mails are pouring into my office not to extend the mining lease to the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company. Of course, it is a public sector company. About 2440 employees are there. Indirectly, about 10,000 people are getting employment opportunities. But, at the same time, we should not ignore the interests of environment. We have to strike a balance between development and environment. In 1969, the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company was given the lease for a period of 30 years. From 1999 onwards, we are extending the lease. We gave an extension of one year in 1999 and another one year in 2000.

Now we have extended the period for three months because the Supreme Court is already seized of the matter. Only after hearing the verdict of the Supreme Court, we will be able to take a proper decision.

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: My second supplementary is this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't give explanations. Just put your question.

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: As the hon. Minister has said, it has been extended only by three months and the issue is in court. The court will have in view the environmental side only. Will they

consider the other side of the matter? What will be the fate of the investment? More then Rs. 1000 crores has been invested. What will be the fate of the export earnings? The Mangalore Port is entirely depending on this company's activities. If the Supreme Court gives a direction that the operations should be stopped in the interests of environment...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I hope you are not saying that environment should not be taken care of.

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: No, Sir. All of us are concerned with the environment aspect. We have to preserve the thick forest area. My question is about the investment made. Ours is a developing country. We have to look for alternative sources for afforestation or for prevention of the slurry or waste. If the Government wants to stop the activities, will it consider compensating the investment and safeguarding the employees' intersts. This is what I want to know from the hon. Minister.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, the hon. Supreme Court is seized of the *r. I* hope it will consider all these aspects I may not be able to nytfaiitg more at this stage.

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Oil ships passing off the *'arnataka-Goa cost from the Middle East to the Far East have posed a serious threat of marine pollution along the Goan coastline, affecting the tourism industry there. As a result of the blatant violation of MARPOL guidelines by the oil tankers, the famous beaches have literally turned black with tar balls spread all over the coastline, the merchant tankers sailing at a distance of around 150 nautical miles from the western coast have been discharging unpumpable heavy sediments of oil settled at the bottom of the cargo tanks, exploiting the Arabian sea as the dumping ground. So, the whole coastal line has literally turned black with tar balls spread all over, and the River Princess ship which has been grounded, has caused a lot of damage to the coast. My question is: What steps is the Government taking to keep the beach line in good conditions? What further steps are they taking to make the marine life safe and better?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I would like to inform you that the hon. Member, Shri Santosh Bagrodia, is going to put the next question. He has prepared a note about some supplementaries to be asked by him, and has handed over the same to my friend, Shri C.P. Thirunavukkarasu. I will answer this question when it is taken up.

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Sir, so far as the question of right of way of 30 metres to Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited for the pipeline in the forest area is concerned, while answering part (c) of the question, the Minister has stated that since the acquisition of land has been made prior to the enactment of the Forests Act of 1980, even a clearance under the Forests Act of 1990 is not required for confirmation in the existing pipeline. Now, the question is, in order to maintain the eco-system, it is not worthwhile to depend upon the judgment of the Supreme Court. We need not wait for the decision of the Supreme Court. My specific question to the Minister is: What is the stand of your Ministry regarding the maintenance of eco-system in the particular area? I would also like to know whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests is over-effecting the laws over the Ministry of Mines that was provided in 1969 to lease it out. The work has started and crores of rupees have been invested. What about the fate of 3,000 workers? what alternative method do you propose to protect the interests of the workers? In the meantime, I would also like to know whether it is a fact that to save the ecosystem, the mining is to be prohibited in toto.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, there was a report according to which the pipeline which was carrying slurry to the Mangalore port, was worn out. For that purpose, the particular company, has sought 30 hectares of land, so as to have a parallel pipeline to carry the iron ore slurry. What we have suggested was that it is not proper to have another 30 hectares of land. Wherever the iron ore pipes are worn out, they can replace it. That was the advice given by us. However, the interests of 2,000 workers will be protected and the environmental aspects will be taken care of by the Ministry.

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: To maintain the eco-system, what is the stand of your Ministry? You have to make this point very

clear. You need not depend upon the judgment of the Supreme Court. There is no meaning in it. It is your Ministry alone which has to come out with a specific proposal and a plan.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I have already answered this question. I have said that wherever the slurry has come out from the iron ore pipeline, the same has been taken care of by the Ministry. I mean, they have attended to this problem.

श्री सुरेश पचोरी : सभापति महोदय,कुद्रेमुख आइरन ओर कंपनी की जब स्थापना हुई थी ,उस समय फारेस्ट कंजरवेशन एक्ट ,1980 लागु नहीं किया गया था । इसलिए जब लैंड का एक्विज़ीशन किया गया था , उस समय यह एक्ट एप्लीकेबल नहीं था ,इसलिए इस बींदु का ध्यान नहीं रखा गया था । लेकिन जैसे कि मंत्री जी ने बताया की इस एक्ट के लागू होने के बाद तीन बार इसकी लीज़ की परमिशन बढ़ाई गई है ,1999 से 2000, 2000 से 2001 में तीन महीने के लिए । यह एक्ट 1980 में लागू हो गया था, उसके बाद भी उसकी लीज़ की अनुमति बढ़ाई गई है .क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय, यह बताएंगे कि फिर से लीज़ आगे दी जाए इस संबंध में क्या प्रोपोज़ल कार्नाटक गवर्नमेंट का फेवरेबली मिला है? यह मेरे प्रश्न का भाग (ए) है और प्रश्न का (बी) भाग यह है कि क्या इसी प्रकार की रिक्मेंडेशंस पार्लियामेंटरी कमेटी ने भी कि है ? यदि की है तो उस संबंध में मंत्री जी क्या करने जा रहे हैं क्योंकि प्रश्न केवल 'कुद्रेमुख आयरन ओर' का नहीं है. प्रश्न यहीं काम कर रहे उस इंप्लायीज का है जे यदि इस संबंध में लीज़ नहीं दी जाएगी तो बेरोजगार हो जाएगे । अगर बेरोजगार होते हैं तो कहीं और रोजगार देने के लिए सरकार की क्या योजना है ? क्योंकि यह प्राफिट मेकिंग पब्लिक सेक्टर अंडरटेकिंग है।

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, Pachouri Saheb is kind enough to put those questions. By answering them, I can narrate some positive measures which I have taken. Of course, we have given an extension of three months. Without prejudice to judicial order, I could say that I have put forth the proposal and filed an affidavit before the Supreme Court requesting the hon. Court to extend it for another five years, if it deems fit. Sir, I want to strike a balance environment and development. As regards the safety, it is for the Supreme Court to decide on this issue. I will have to wait for its decision.

Of course, the Karnataka Government has asked for a lease of

20 years. We have extended the lease for three months, and I have requested the Supreme Court to allow it to be extended it for five years more.

MISS MABEL REBELLO: Sir, my previous colleagues have asked about the impact of mining on employment and export earning. If this project is discontinued, it will have adverse impact on employment and export earning. I would like to put a question to the hon. Minister. There is a study conducted by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, on the impact of mining on Kudremukh National Park, which reveals an adverse effect of mining on the surrounding areas. Just now, the Minister has admitted that a lot of people have been making an appeal to him, sending faxes and e-mails. A lot of people have also been sending e-mails to us saying that because of the Kudremukh project, the ecology of western ghats is getting destroyed. What does the Minister intend to do? Now he has extended the lease for three months. This way, there is no future for the project, and the entire thing is hanging fire. What will happen? There is some sort of uncertainty in the minds of the people. The employers are suffering. The people who are interested in preserving these forests do not know what the stand of the Government is. There is a public interest litigation in the Supreme Court. All sorts of confusion are there. Why doesn't the Government come out clearly? I would like to know, even before the Supreme Court gives its verdict, what the stand of the Government is.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I know the intention of the parliamentarians, and also the intention of the environmentalists. They have requested for considering the interests of the employees. I hope, the hon. Supreme Court will definitely take a decision on this issue. But, at the same time, as far as the study conducted by the Institute is concerned,...*(Interruptions)*...

MISS MABEL REBELLO: What is your stand?...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I have already intimated the House about the stand taken by the Ministry. As far as the study conducted by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, is concerned, we have

received some reports. The reports received by us show. "Concentration of inorganic parameters, including iron in the surface water, at all the locations are below the maximum limits. Dissolved oxygen, iron and PH are within acceptable limits. In bore wells, concentration of iron is high. Sediments in Bhadra river downstream of mines contain iron in insoluble form. And, as far as the biodiversity is concerned, the abandoned mine areas show no regeneration of shola forests and a few instances of mammals straying in." These are the observations made by that particular Institute.

MISS MABEL REBELLO: Those are the observations made by the Institute. But what is the stand of the Government?...*(Interruptions)*... They have given a study on the impact of mining, and they have given you the feedback. What are you planning?

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: Try to reconcile the conflicting, opposite views.

MISS MABEL REBELLO: When you become a Minister, I will put a question to you directly, not through the Chairman. Why are you answering now? It is not addressed to you.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, the stand of the Ministry has been put forth in an affidavit which is filed before the Supreme Court. We have to get it cleared from the Supreme Court only.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Sir, the mining lease was given in 1969. For various reasons the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company could not start the mining activities in 1969. There was a dispute between the Government of India and the Iran Government and all that. The company started working in 1975 or 1976. You have extended it only for three months. There is no guarantee that the Supreme Court will give its decision by October. In that case, there will be a standstill. Will you consider, taking into account the overall interests of the ecosystem as well as the company, extending it for, at least, three years on an *ad hoc* basis till your application is considered by the Supreme Court? Is there any stay by the Supreme Court? You have already extended it, despite the public interest litigation. Now, you have extended it upto October. After October, if the Supreme Court does

not take a decision, what will be the fate of the company? The whole activity will come to a standstill. I would like to know whether the Government will consider extending the period for a reasonable time, say, at least, two years, taking into consideration the fact that the company has not exploited it for the lease period of 30 years and it has a right to exploit it. Will the Government consider this proposal?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, since there was no stay, the extension was given. But, of course, the case is going to be heard by the Supreme Court shortly. We have to wait till the Supreme Court gives a verdict, and at the appropriate time an appropriate decision will be taken by the Government subject to the decision of the Supreme Court.

Removal of 'River Princess' at Candolim Beach

*284. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:†

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are unable to remove the grounded River Princess at Candolim Beach in Goa; and

(b) whether Government plan to introduce new and more effective laws to either force the owner or to use Government machinery in such situations?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The State Government of Goa has initiated steps to enact a legislation to deal with such cases.

Statement

The District Magistrate, North Goa District had passed an order dated 21st November, 2000 under Section 133 of Cr. P.C. directing M's Salgaoncar Mining Industries Private Ltd. (SMIPL) to refloat the

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the house by Shri Santosh Bagrodia.